

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph 0020, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring now to the drawings, the invention comprises an apparatus 10 for forming food products into nonsymmetrical shapes such as chicken drumsticks, fish, etc. on a mass production basis. The apparatus 10 includes an iris aperture 20, best seen in FIG. 4, which shapes food product fed in a steady stream of portions from a VomagTM food pump 30 manufactured by Robert Reiser & Co of Canton, MA. The shutter portion 21 of the diaphragm comprises a plurality of blades 22, which function similar to a shutter. A typical diaphragm would include six (6) blades 22 mounted about aperture 23 through which the food stream portion passes and which operate to shape a predetermined food product. The apparatus 10 may include a plurality of iris diaphragms 20 coupled to the gearbox to shape and portion the food product.